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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR T Garcia ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/09
LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 38
SHORT TITLE Create Veterans' Affairs Committee SB _____
ANALYST Wilson

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	\$0.1	\$0.1			Non- Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 38 requests the New Mexico Legislative Council to create an interim Veterans' And Military Affairs Committee to work with the Veterans' Services Department (VSD), the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and related agencies to make recommendations for legislative initiatives to address the findings of the committee.

The joint memorial requests the interim committee to develop recommendations by November 30, 2009 to assist the appropriate state agencies in formulating legislative proposals necessary to implement the recommendations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The resources needed for the interim committee will be provided by the agencies named in this memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are approximately 200,000 veterans and active duty members of the United States armed forces and the New Mexico National Guard who reside in this state.

From 2001 through 2008, approximately 5,200 members of the New Mexico National Guard were activated and deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other foreign locations in support of the war on terror.

In 2009, it is anticipated that approximately eight hundred fifty members of the New Mexico National Guard will be activated and deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and other foreign locations in support of the war on terror.

The adjutant general is the head of the DMA and is a member of the governor's cabinet.

The VSD was created in 2004 as a cabinet-level department.

Veterans' and military affairs are key policy issues for the legislature.

Numerous bills related to veterans' and military issues have been introduced in recent sessions of the legislature.

The legislature recognizes an overdue need to focus on veterans' and military affairs.

The legislature recognizes a responsibility to coordinate legislative initiatives related to veterans' and military affairs;

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The affected agencies should be able to handle the provisions in this memorial as part of ongoing responsibilities

DW/mt